



FIGHTING ELECTRIC RATE HIKES

I was recently joined by local community and business leaders at Milford City Hall to call on the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to protect electric ratepayers struggling in an already fragile economic environment. The DPUC has crafted a draft decision that allows United Illuminating to open its 2006 rate case—a move that could lead to another rate hike for customers. To learn more, visit my Web site: SenatorSlossberg.cga.ct.gov

Dear Neighbor:

By almost any measure, the nation is in a recession, and states across America are feeling the effects.

Connecticut faces these uncertain times with a biennial budget that makes important investments in local schools, roads, health care, school readiness, municipal aid, criminal justice programs, and other vital needs.

However, state revenue forecasts continue to drop, and just as Connecticut’s families are tightening their belts, so must our state government. While we held the line on any new spending during this past legislative session, we were still able to find ways to help the people of our state by enacting long-needed reforms in our criminal justice system, health care, consumer protection, ethics and the environment.

As always, I love to hear from you. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

With warm regards,

Gayle
Gayle Slossberg

State Senator



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State Senator
Gayle Slossberg

I’m proud to represent
the 14th Senate District:
**Milford • Orange
West Haven**

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 14th state Senate District is advocating for Milford, Orange and West Haven to receive their fair share of state funding. Over the last four years, I am pleased to report the following increases in grants and reimbursements from the state:

	FY 04-05	*FY 08-09	
Total Education Grants	\$47,024,927	\$54,752,551	From FY 04-05 to FY 08-09, town aid was increased by \$9,680,484—that’s 19 percent
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$516,612	\$749,111	
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$1,495,076	\$1,736,261	
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$1,038,753	\$1,044,797	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$1,741,492	\$3,214,624	
Totals	\$51,816,860	\$61,497,344	

*FY 08-09 figures are projected

Highlights of Local Accomplishments

◆ Local Access Television Programming

For the past few years, our third-party cable provider has limited our ability to watch our own local programs, such as local government meetings, high school football games and even parades. I believe that Milford and Orange residents should be able to decide when we want to watch Milford and Orange government access television (MGAT and OGAT). This year, I authored and passed legislation to return programming control to our local groups to ensure that we can finally watch our towns in action without interruption.


◆ State Funds for West Haven Rail Station

We can be proud that \$24.5 million for the new West Haven rail station has been secured. The shovel will be in the ground in 15 months. This is an exciting step forward for mass transit and revitalizing West Haven. We also have an Orange train station in the works.



◆ Clean Water Funding

I helped to secure \$55 million in grants and low-interest loans to the City of Milford for the Beaver Brook and Housatonic sewage system upgrades. These projects will help keep our rivers, lakes, and Long Island Sound clean and will save taxpayers many dollars.



Fighting the High Cost of Gasoline & Energy

We all know that the cost of fuel is sky-high—affecting how much you pay for gas and groceries. While we can’t stop fuel prices from rising, we can prevent tax increases from further driving up the cost. This June, we said NO to a scheduled increase in the gross receipts tax. By blocking this tax hike, we’re hoping to save you a few cents on each gallon, and that adds up. We’re also taking action to help seniors and working families survive the high cost of the looming home heating oil season.

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I love talking to young people about public service and their state government as I did with fifth-graders from West Haven's Mackrille School during their visit to the State Capitol this spring.

STATE SENATOR
Gayle Slossberg
LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Protecting Homeowners and Our Economy

This year, I supported comprehensive legislation designed to keep families in their homes and proactively protect our state's economy from the national subprime mortgage crisis. Across the country, our quality of life is being diminished, home values are plummeting and families are faced with difficult choices as home foreclosure rates have skyrocketed 75 percent since 2006.



The legislation we passed created a special loan program, which allows the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to purchase home loans from lenders and place eligible borrowers on affordable payment schedules for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages. We also re-initiated the state's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program and gave CHFA the authority to purchase foreclosed homes to create affordable and supportive housing. These programs will help thousands of Connecticut families and will help prevent the mass foreclosures other states have experienced over the past year.

TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this coupon and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the opposite side of this mailer.

- ☐ Business
- ☐ Criminal Justice
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Seniors

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In June I joined Governor Rell, fellow lawmakers and advocates for signing of legislation that I authored allowing for the online procurement of goods—a measure designed to protect taxpayers and help the state save money.

Ethics Reform

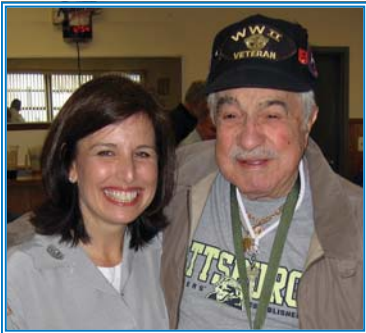
As Senate chair of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, responsible for ethics, I am proud we passed a comprehensive, bipartisan package of ethics reforms designed to clean up corruption and protect the public trust. I wrote, negotiated and passed legislation that provides that any public official, state or municipal employee who is convicted of corruption may have their pension revoked or reduced. This was a long and hard-fought battle. Finally, taxpayers can know that we may no longer be required to pay a public pension to people who violate the public trust.



With Senate President Donald Williams and Senate Minority Leader John McKinney as Governor Rell signs my ethics bill into law.

Honoring Our Troops

Our military personnel dedicate their lives to defending our country and upholding freedom and democracy. This session, we created several new opportunities to honor the service of Connecticut's veterans and active-duty troops. Starting in January, any Connecticut resident can purchase a "Support Our Troops!" license plate for \$60, a portion of which will be used to assist servicemen and women, their families and veterans. We also waived the \$10 fee for the Gold Star license plate, which is available for families of veterans who are killed while on active duty. Finally, we extended eligibility for burial in the state veterans' cemeteries to frontline members of the National Guard and allowed for the posthumous award of the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal.



Sharing a happy moment during the "Day for a Vet" program at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7788 in Devon.

Criminal Justice Reforms

Crime is an issue that has been on the minds of many state residents for several months, and the General Assembly took strong and decisive action this year on a variety of criminal justice matters. The legislature created the new crime of "home invasion," which carries a mandatory 10-year minimum jail term, and created a full-time, professional Board of Pardons and Paroles. We also approved doubling and tripling prison sentences for the most violent of criminals while simultaneously giving criminal justice professionals the \$10 million needed to enhance public safety. That money will be used to prosecute repeat offenders, track sexual offenders, hire more investigators and probation officers, and increase funding for prisoner re-entry programs.



I was honored to attend the graduation of the Orange Senior Leadership program. With me, (from left to right) are Louise Cavallaro, Betsy Maley, Lucy Scillia, Joan Astle and Elaine Klein. Congratulations to all of the graduates!

Keeping Jobs and Tax Revenue in Connecticut

Many Connecticut-based companies are losing state contracts to out-of-state companies. Instead of using state contracts to create jobs here, all too often multi-million dollar contracts are awarded to consulting firms in Arizona, printers in Michigan, and so on. I helped to pass a law that will keep more of our tax dollars and jobs in Connecticut. The 'reciprocal preference' or 'Golden Rule' bill levels the playing field for local companies competing with certain out-of-state companies. The bill ensures that if another state offers an advantage to its own companies, then we do the same for our companies when they try to win a contract with the State of Connecticut.

Tougher Requirements, Education for Teen Drivers



Communities across the state are grieving over the loss of young lives in tragic automobile accidents. The General Assembly made several changes this year to help prevent fatal accidents involving teenage drivers and passengers. Teens are now required to spend more time behind the wheel before they can get a driver's license, and they cannot drive with passengers under age 18 who are not immediate family for a year. Teens will also face harsh penalties—including license suspensions—for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving, speeding, street racing and using a cell phone while driving. While we cannot prevent every accident, if we can save just one family from tragedy, these new laws will be a success.

Lowering Health Care Costs for Municipalities and Small Businesses

This legislative session we tried to tackle one of the biggest issues driving up our property taxes—health care costs for our cities and towns. The General Assembly passed the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership that would have allowed municipalities, small businesses and nonprofits to voluntarily join the state employee health insurance plan. By expanding this large pool of insured, we would have increased bargaining power and lowered costs for municipalities. Not only would this have benefited property tax payers, but it would have also benefited small businesses—they create the vast majority of jobs in Connecticut, but are hit the hardest when it comes to skyrocketing health care costs. This bill, which was vetoed by the governor, could have leveled the playing field and helped employers and families afford quality health care coverage.

